



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Time: 4:00pm

Location: Conducted by Hybrid Participation

This will be a hybrid meeting. Individuals may choose one of the following in-person or virtual options:

1. Attend in person at the Community Center 20 Academy Street/27 Maple Street. Registration not required for in-person attendance.
2. *Notice to the Public on meeting privacy* In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

When: January 18, 2023 4:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/join/9876543210>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Grace Carpenter, Paul Raia, Kerrie Fallon, Ileana Gatica, Michael Rademacher

Guests: Julie Kennerson, Rebecca Gruber, Janice Cagan-Tuber, Tim Ross

Absent: Paul Parravano, Cynthia DeAngelis, Karen Mathiasen

Agenda

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome (5 min)
 - a. Raia call to order at 4:06PM, seconded by Carpenter
2. Ground rules (2 min)
 - a. [Please don't use Zoom chat/messaging during the meeting, unless that is

your primary way to participate in a meeting. The co-chairs have disabilities that make it hard to deal with Zoom chat/messaging]

3. Approve Draft December Meeting Minutes (2 min)
 - a. Raia moved to approve, Gatica seconded
4. Review calendar/monthly meeting dates for 2023 (10 min)
 - a. Commission agreed to skip August.
 - b. Commission agreed to move December meeting to the 13th
5. Arlington Reads (10 min)
 - a. Carpenter brought up a Netflix documentary Crip Camp
 - b. Tim reviewed Disability Commission panel
 - c. Carpenter stated library in the past has done a display on disability rights and was wondering if that will be done this year. Tim will check.
6. Recruitment of new Commissioners (15 min)
 - a. Janice would like to be a commissioner
 - b. Raia stated we should reach out to the special education director if they can recommend someone. Would that person be interested in being a volunteer? They could also recommend students who may be interested. Tim will reach out.
 - c. Carpenter noted stated the last time we were recruiting that Jill Harvey sent out a blast to all APS parents. Emphasized that we have to follow bylaws of the makeup of the disability commission, need to recruit someone who has a disability.
 - d. Raia stated we don't have a commissioner who is a wheelchair user or deaf.
 - e. Carpenter asked everyone present if they knew of anyone in Arlington with a disability to spread word.
 - f. Rebecca Gruber said Arlington Reads would be great opportunity to raise awareness of the commission and vacancies.
 - g. Fallon stated volunteers are a great way to get new commissioners.
 - h. Gatica said a younger commissioner would be great for diversity. Should check with SEPAC. Tim will reach out.
 - i. Gruber stated there have been high school students on other commissions and we should double check the bylaws, minimum age may be 16?
 - j. Fallon said there was a previous commissioner who was younger but felt left out due to age differences.
7. Development Review Team (10 min)
 - a. Tim reviewed DRT
 - b. Tim reviewed difference between ARB and Zoning Board of Appeals
 - i. Tim to reach out to ARB and ZBA to find out if ADA compliance is being considered and by whom. Especially when it comes to handicap parking spaces being reduced.
8. Correspondence (5 min)
 - a. Tim reviewed.
 - b. Mike stated audible signal may have been removed during construction.
9. Civilian Police Advisory Board nominee (10 min)
 - a. Rebecca Gruber wanted to clarify that the nominee didn't have to be a Disability Commission member, but that the commission would nominate someone who has a perspective of residents with disabilities to offer to the committee.
10. Annual Report (5 min)
11. Subcommittee reports
 - a. DEI
 - i. Tim reviewed
 - b. DPW
 - i. Rework handicap parking spaces in Town center parking.

- ii. Carpenter noted how the sidewalks on the Civic Block are all brick and not in great shape.
 - iii. Issue with replacing bricks along Mass Ave, not enough funds, what people want (wider vs bike lane, trash cans?, etc.). Civic Block is tricky because there may be historical interests preventing replacing bricks.
 - iv. Raia expressed concern over the brick walkway leading up to the Council on Aging.
 - c. Remote study
 - i. No updates as they haven't met since our last monthly meeting.
 - ii. Janice requested commissioners fill out hybrid participant surveys. Tim will send out to commissioners.
 - d. Recreation
 - i. Julie Kenerson joined to advocate for commissioners to write a letter of support to the Robbins Farm playground renovations. Encourage avocation for what the commission feels is important to them. There has already been a public input meeting for what residents want in terms of design. Julie thinks a letter of advocacy would be instrumental in supporting both children and caretakers enjoying the playground to it's fullest potential. Specifics for what would be on an inclusive playground would be most beneficial for this letter.
 - ii. Raia stated from his experience of growing up in Arlington, both access and education of how to interact with disabled playground goers is important. Help able bodied students approach non able bodied children in their play.
 - iii. Carpenter suggested everyone come up with a list of their top priorities that we can combine into a single letter of support.
 - iv. Gatica asked if the Understanding Our Differences grant is able to include how to play with disabled students.
 - v. Julie's personal push for needs has been inclusion. Important that we look at how people use the slope. For example, is a long winding path that keeps everyone closer to the play area good but if there's nothing to play with along that path does that go against the idea of inclusivity. Also wood chips are not accessible. Equipment that is inclusive that doesn't involve transferring – roll on spinner, roll on slide. Emphasis on visual impairment (tactile, noise), deaf and hard of hearing (plastic equipment renders cochlear implants unusable), quiet places for neurodivergant kids who need less stimulation.
12. Public Comment (10 min)
13. Next meeting Wednesday February 15, 2023 at 4PM
14. Closing
- a. Raia motioned to adjourn at 5:50PM, Carpenter seconded

Commission members not able to attend please email dei@town.arlington.ma.us prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact dei@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.